

# Northumbria Research Link

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# VLEs: The student perspective

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# VLEs: The student perspective

## Study Aims:

- To find out what Northumbria students use on the VLE
- To determine what Northumbria students use the VLE for
- To investigate student perceptions of the VLE
- To find out what additional information and features students would like on the VLE
- To identify factors influencing student usage of the VLE

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Data Collection methods

Online questionnaire:  $n = 407$

Diary completed for a day, once a week for an eight week period:  $n = 15$

Two focus groups:  $n = 15$

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Themes

- Student activity
- Adopting a student centred approach
- Impediments to student learning
- Impact on lecture attendance
- Communication tools

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Student Activity

- 66% login daily
- 84% login once a week
- Main activity: Downloading notes; assignment briefs; e-mailing staff

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Adopting a student centred approach

- Match with learning style
- Aids learning, though not always if not used to full potential or too texty
- Note annotating
- Prepare for assignments

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Impediments to student learning

- Navigation
- Lack of preparation
- Availability of materials
- Timing of posting



# VLEs: The student perspective

## Impact on lecture attendance

- Does posting of lecture notes reduce attendance?
- No impact

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Communication tools

- 17% voluntarily use VLE communication tools
- 30% use VLE communication tools if instructed
- Limited use
- Potential use

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Recommendations

- Consistency within programmes:
  - Appearance
  - Lecture notes
- Pre-post lecture notes
- Make greater use of communication tools

# VLEs: The student perspective

## Further Research

- Possible areas include how to use VLE communication tools to enhance student experience:
  - Announcements
  - Instant Messaging
  - Blogs
  - Wikis